

## COSTUME SHOE OVERLAY

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

The invention relates to costumes, and more specifically to mass-producible costume footwear.

#### Description of Related Art

Many people wear costumes on Halloween or for specially- themed parties or events. The overwhelming majority of costume wearers do not create custom costumes but rather purchase mass-produced and relatively inexpensive costumes. One reason for such a selection is that the typical costume is worn once or twice a year and, after a very limited number of wearings, perhaps never again.

One element of a person's costume that is typically overlooked is his or her footwear. The costumes that many people purchase typically constitute a top (e.g., shirt, blouse, toga, etc.) and a bottom (e.g., pants, skirt, kilt, etc.) or instead a one-piece type of clothing (e.g., dress, jumpsuit, wetsuit, etc.). Many people do not purchase special shoes for their costumes since the cost of a special pair of shoes would likely exceed the cost of the entire costume, and many costume manufacturers do not provide them since keeping multiple sizes of shoes in stock is not cost effective (as opposed to shirts or pants which are typically small, medium, large, and extra large). Thus, many otherwise great costumes are left wanting below the ankles. Some costumes come with shoe covers similar to galoshes, however these typically provide little or no traction for the wearer and are difficult to walk in.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The above and other objects are fulfilled by the invention, which in brief is a costume shoe overlay that goes over a person's foot or actual shoe for simulating a much larger or fanciful shoe or foot. A hollow base member has side walls in the general shape of a shoe or foot. The top surface has a foot insertion hole formed therein, and the bottom of the hollow base member is substantially open to allow the user's foot or actual shoe disposed inside the hollow base member to contact the ground. A hollow leg member is either securable to or integral with the hollow base member to enhance the effect.

More specifically, the invention includes a costume shoe overlay, comprising a hollow base member having side walls in the general shape of a shoe or foot, a top surface, and a foot insertion hole formed in the top surface, wherein the bottom of the hollow base member is substantially open to allow the user's foot or actual shoe disposed inside the hollow base member to contact the ground. A break is preferably formed in at least one of the side walls for facilitating foot insertion into the foot insertion hole; the break preferably extends to the foot insertion hole. A raised lip is preferably formed at least partially surrounding the foot insertion hole.

In a preferred embodiment, a substantially cylindrical hollow leg member is also provided securable to the hollow base member at the raised lip. A fastener may be secured to at least one of the raised lip and a bottom rim of the hollow leg member in order to secure the two pieces together. The fastener preferably includes hook and loop fastening strips such as VELCRO, wherein at least one of the raised lip and the bottom rim are provided with a hook component of the strips and at least the other of the raised lip and the bottom rim are provided with a loop

component of the strips.

The hollow leg member may include a second break, preferably extending substantially the entire length of the hollow leg member thereby forming two longitudinal edges, to facilitate placement of the leg member around the user's leg. Leg fastening means for closing the second break around the user's leg may be provided, either in the form of at least one fastening strap attached at one end to one of the longitudinal edges and securable at an opposite end to the other longitudinal edge, longitudinal strips of hook and loop fasteners along at least one of an outer rim surface and an inner rim surface of the longitudinal edges, or both.

In an alternative embodiment, the leg member is made integral with the hollow base member surrounding the foot insertion hole.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a top left perspective view of a costume shoe overlay in accordance with the invention including optional leg segment.

Fig. 2 is a bottom rear perspective view of the costume shoe overlay of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top elevation view of the costume shoe overlay of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an exploded rear view of the costume shoe overlay and leg segment of Fig. 1.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT AND DRAWINGS

Description will now be given with reference to the attached Figs. 1-4. It should be noted that these figures are exemplary in nature and in no way serve to limit the scope of the invention which is defined by the claims appearing hereinbelow.

As shown in the attached drawings, the invention is primarily a costume shoe overlay 10 into which the user fits his or her foot to change the appearance of his/her feet. Overlay 10 includes side walls 12 and a top surface 14 which serve to hide or shield the person's real footwear and give the appearance or simulation of a bizarre or freakishly outsized foot or shoe. Top surface 14 includes a foot insertion hole 16 (See Fig. 3) into which the user inserts his/her foot (either with or without actual footwear). Foot insertion hole 16 is preferably bordered by a raised lip 17 onto which is incorporated fastener 18. The preferred fastener is a hook and loop fastening system such as Velcro. The rear portion of side walls 12 meet at the rear which is preferably provided with a break 20 which allows the overlay 10 to expand, and the resiliency of the overlay material accommodates the user's foot as it is being inserted therein. In this embodiment, fastener 18 would be provided with a length of hooks on one side of the break 20 which can extend over and faster to loops on the other side of break 20. When these are mated together, overlay 10 is secured to the wearer's foot.

As best illustrated in Fig. 2, the bottom 22 of overlay 10 is hollow or open. This enables the wearer to contact the ground with his/her conventional ordinary shoes or sneakers, i.e., the footwear that the wearer is comfortable wearing and with which the wearer has ease walking. The dimensions of overlay 10 are those necessary to cover most conventional footwear. As a result, the wearer can wear almost any type of shoe or sneaker underneath. Because overlay 10 is provided with break 20, it is easy to put on and remove.

Because it is also desirable to simulate costume boots which have a leg portion, the invention may optionally include a hollow leg member 30 which also has a longitudinal break 32 to facilitate application on a person's leg. The leg member also includes at least one fastener.

Fastening strap 34 (See Fig. 1) is attachable to one or both sides of leg member 30 and across break 32 to secure the two sides together. Alternatively or in addition, a longitudinal fastener 36 may be provided along one or both of the vertical edges formed at break 32. Fasteners 34 and 36 are also preferably Velcro strips as above. In addition, a circumferential fastener 38 (See Fig. 4) may be provided at the lowermost rim of leg member 30 (see Fig. 4) so that leg member 30 can be secured to and visually integrate with shoe overlay 10. In this embodiment, circumferential fastener 38 (hooks) engages the cooperating fastener 18 (loops).

A number of ornamental features are preferably provided to enhance the costume aspect of the invention. The preferred embodiment shown in the drawings is a boot for a Frankenstein costume. As such, it is provided with oversized “stitches” 42 (see Fig. 3) and a simulated buckle 44 (see Fig. 1).

The invention is preferably made of Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) foam, though it could also be made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sheet or similar plastics or polymers. It is intended to be mass produced and thus should be made from non-toxic, inexpensive, and easily formed materials.

The invention is not limited to the above description. For example, the preferred fasteners are described as being of the hook and loop variety. However, it is also contemplated that all fastening elements could be snaps, buttons, laces, zippers, adhesives, magnets, or any other conventional, non-permanent fasteners.

Similarly, in the example shown, shoe overlay 10 is intended to be used with a Frankenstein costume. Of course, the invention can be used to simulate almost any type of oversized costume footwear, e.g., hairy feet, clown feet, webbed feet, robot feet, flippers, and the

like.

Having described the invention with reference to the drawings, it should be understood that the scope of the invention is not limited by the drawings but rather is defined by the claims appearing hereinbelow. Variations and modifications to the above description that would be obvious to one skilled in the art are contemplated as within the scope of the invention